(b) if so, what are their details and whether cooking gas would be easily available even in remote and difficult areas whereby forest could be saved;

(c) whether equalisation of consumer rates in such areas and plains has also been enforced; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the areas so covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The extension of LPG distribution in various towns and cities is a continuous process all over the country. LPG distribution is being maximised in hilly and forest regions subject to economic viability. In the Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Uttar Pradesh, State Government undertakings like Kumeon and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigams are marketing LPG, including in small towns and extension points. Similarly, in Himachal Pradesh, the State Civil Supplies Corporation has been authorised to market LPG in various hilly areas.

LPG connections are also being released in such areas expeditiously to clear the waiting lists.

(c) Under a scheme introduced with effect from 16-6-1988, no freight is being charged on LPG for domestic use for supplies in the identified hilly areas on the transportation from the refinery to the bottling plant and from the bottling plant to the LPG distributors; also, wherever supplies are made at the extension points, from the distributor point to such extension points where LPG marketing and distribution is done by the State Government agencies/State Government companies in the hill areas.

(d) The details of hill areas so identified for the purpose of qualifying for the above concession are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No.]

Interim Reports of the High Power Committee

1203. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Power Committee for consideration of the interests of the employees of the industrial units having Central pattern of dearness allowance has submitted three interim reports and is about to submit the fourth one; and

(b) if so, what recommendations have so far been accepted and implemented; not accepted or are still under consideration, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations made by the High Power Pay Committee in their three interim reports have been accepted by the Government and suitable instructions issued to public enterprises.

बाबरपुर मेन रोड दिल्ली में वाणिज्यिक (बिजली) कनैक्शनों का दिया जाना

1204. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि डेसू कार्यालय शाहदरा, दिल्ली–32 के इंसपैक्टरों के पास कुछ आवेदन पत्र काफी लम्बे समय से पड़े हुए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) उन आवेदकों के नाम और पते क्या है जिन्होंने जनवरी, 1988 से आवेदन पत्र दे रखे हैं और उनके आवेदन पत्रों की तारीखें क्या हैं ; और

(घ) इन आवेदन पत्रों के कब तक निपटा दिए जाने की आशा है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में विद्युत विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्पनाथ राय) : (क) से (घ) डेसू के अनुसार उसके जिला कार्यालय झिलमिल में निम्नलिखित आवेदन पत्र गैर-घरेलू (वाणिज्यिक रोशनी) कनेक्शनों हेतु लम्बित पड़े हैं :

नाम और पता	आवेदन-पत्र प्राप्ति की तारीख
श्री विष्णु भगवान गुप्ता, 426/बी, छोटा बाजार, शाहदरा, दिल्ली–32	22–7–88
श्री ए० के० मलहोत्रा, 440/4, फर्श बाजार, शाहादरा, दिल्ली–32	2–8–88
श्री इन्दर कुमार, 316, तेलीवाड़ा, शाहदरा, दिल्ली–32	19–9–88

कुछ सर्विस लाइन सामग्री आदि की अस्थायी रूप से कमी के कारण उपरोक्त मामलों में कनेक्शनों का अर्जन किया जाना संभव नहीं हो पाया है। सामग्री की शीघ्र व्यवस्था करके, वाणिज्यिक औपचारिकताओं को पूरा किए जाने पर, कनेक्शनों के अर्जन हेतु संबंधित जिला इंजीनियर को आवश्यक निर्देश दिए गए हैं।

Incentives to Gas based Industries in Andhra Pradesh

1205. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give incentives for development of gas based industries in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Government have fixed a concessional price of Rs. 900/1000 M3 for the Gas in K. G. Basin. This concession has been extended to all the nine consumers in the K.G. Basin with whom contracts for supply of gas have been signed by ONGC.

Oil Exploration in Andhra Pradesh

1206. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whethre the ONGC has undertaken any off-shore operations in Andhra Pradesh during the years 1986—1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the results achieved so far; and

(c) what are the details of future plans for oil exploration in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of exploration activities are:

No. of wells drilled	8
Metreage drilled ('000 metres)	24,189

As a result, oil/gas has been found in 5 wells and there has been an addition to geological reserves of hydrocarbons.